

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

TO: **Urban Design Committee** DATE: **January 2, 2014**
DEPT: FROM: **Ed Zimmer**
CC: **file** DEPT: **Planning**
RE: **Info sheet for Enersen Urban
Design Awards**

The traditional rules for the Enersen Urban Design Awards are outlined below, with some new suggestions. An "Honor Roll" of past winners is attached.

The Larry Enersen Urban Design Awards were instituted in 1984 by the Urban Design Committee in cooperation with the Lincoln Arts Council. Named in memory of the Committee's inaugural chairman, a prominent Lincoln landscape architect and urban designer, the awards are intended to "promote public education and appreciation of urban design" by recognizing outstanding public and private projects.

Rules: Now in its 29th year, UDC's Enersen Awards program has operated under three general guidelines:

- ◆ No more than two awards are given per year, one to a private project and one to a public effort. *[In 1985 and 2000, 2011, no awards were given. In 1986, 1989, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2004, 2005, and 2006 only a single award was given, and in 1994 and 1996, three projects were recognized.]*
- ◆ Projects must be located within the Lincoln city limits.
- ◆ Projects should have been completed in the year preceding the recognition.

I would suggest that the "completion" rule be amended to a longer time frame or omitted altogether. Projects often take more than a year to mature and show their true impact. The Committee might consider a roster of nominated projects, a "pending list," that continues from year-to-year and is annually reviewed to determine whether to retain a project remains on that list for future consideration, is dropped from the list, or is honored with an award.

The Committee has also had some brief discussions of whether certain projects are "urban" or "suburban" in character and perhaps in location. I would offer that the "city limits" rule should allow the consideration of projects throughout the community, from SouthPointe to Haymarket to Fallbrook, if they demonstrate laudable characteristics of creating or contributing to highly functional, desirable human environments for public enjoyment. Conceivably that is possible in new "edge" developments as well as in the traditional core city. Lincoln's relatively compact pattern of growth and extraterritorial zoning authority ("3-Mile Limit") have prevented the spawning of true "suburbs" in the sense of most cities of our size and larger, although certainly we have areas of better and worse "urban design."

As discussed at the December 2013 meeting, JoAnne as our Chair, with volunteer assistance

from Michele Tilley, is implementing the idea of a “grand jury” of community members to assist with the Enersen Award process. For an abbreviated process this year, they are reaching out to former UDC members and other community design experts to nominate one or two projects for Committee consideration and hopefully, confirmation as the award winners, at a special meeting on January 29th, to meet the Lincoln Arts Council deadline of February 1st. In August/Sept., we would commence a more extensive process, ideally also involving student committee members, to recommend 2014 projects for award consideration.

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Honor Roll: Enersen Urban Design Awards

Year	Public Projects	Private Projects
1984	Maple Lodge Park	Haymarket Square
1985	<i>no award</i>	<i>no award</i>
1986	Old City Hall Sculpture Garden	
1987	Dietrick Bikeway/ Northeast Linear Park	Three Pines Court
1988	deSuvero Sculpture in UN-L Cather Garden	CenterStone
1989		Color Court & Peanut Butter Factory
1990	Hardy Building	CenterOaks & FairOaks
1991	City Rails to Trails (Rock Island & MoPac)	Lazlo's Project (710 P St.)
1992	Iron Horse Park & Mural	Mount Emerald District
1993	Antelope Park Triangle	Stratford Avenue medians
1994	Rock'n'Roll Runza Mural	Lincoln Commercial Club Building Grainger Building
1995	-----George Chick-----	
1996	The gates at Love Library Garden, UNL City Campus	Restored signs, 729 Q St., Data Security (small scale) First-Plymouth Church addition (large scale).
1997	"The Torn Notebook" & its garden, UNL	
1998	Streetscape rebuilding, O Street	
1999	17 th St. Shops (Urban Devel. Dept. & Erickson/Sullivan, Architects)	Robert Ripley
2000	<i>no award</i>	<i>no award</i>
2001	Wyuka Cemetery entrance	Sinclair Hille Building
2002	*****Lincoln Children's Museum*****	
2003	Haymarket Parking Garage	Tom Laging
2004	**Haymarket (baseball) Park & Pedestrian bridge to Haymarket District**	
2005	Lincoln Mall renovation	
2006	Sunken Gardens renovation	
2007	Government Square Park	
2008		Sawmill Building, 8 th & S Streets
2009	Harris Overpass	Liberty Village (23rd-24th on Vine)
2010	Rose Garden at Antelope Park	Bank of the West/ "Barrymore" Alley
2011	<i>no award</i>	<i>no award</i>
2012	Antelope Valley Project	